

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-15-01

April 6, 2001

The following is offered in response to your letter to me dated April 3, 2001 in which you request formal interpretations of the provisions of the 1999 State Building Code. Your questions have to do with the construction of a 26' x 12' x 4 ½' high skateboard ramp on the driveway of a single-family residence.

Question 1: Does the described skateboard ramp qualify as a structure requiring a building permit?

Answer 1: No. While due to the broad nature of the definition of structure ("That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof."), the ramp described can be defined as a structure, there are no provisions in the 1999 State Building Code that regulate skateboard ramps. Issuance of a permit implies inspections to confirm compliance with the code and the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy certifying that the structure substantially complies with the State Building Code. Since the code contains no standards by which to perform the inspections, or otherwise ascertain substantial compliance with the code, there is no purpose in issuing a building permit for what is essentially a piece of recreational equipment.

Question 2: Is this considered a Utility structure requiring a frost protected footing?

Answer 2: No.

Question 3: If it is determined that a permit is required, what standard or section of the code would cover this?

Answer 3: No permit is required, so the question is moot.

Question 4: Do you consider this play equipment?

Answer 4: Yes, and as such, it is outside the scope of the building code. I am unaware of any particular standards that have been developed for playground equipment.